

Dear Commission

I am writing to comment on the Proposed Merger between XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc., Transferor, and Sirius Satellite Radio Inc., Transferee.

My reference to this matter is one of a consumer. I look at the potential merger with optimism. Knowing that if allowed to join together I would be able to enjoy a wide variety of programming that I am currently not able to listen to either through traditional Radio or through Internet. Now I have heard the National association of broadcaster state they are not in direct competition with the satellite companies. Yet they are.

As a consumer when I am searching for something to listen to, I will take into effect all option available. I remember hearing roughly 7 years ago how The NAB believed they were not in competition with The internet, however in the FCC's due diligence they shut down the broadcast of radio stations as well as some sports casting of games because it conflicted with the local radio stations as well as preservation of copyright integrity.

Now here we are when they claim to not be in competition however everyday on my radio I hear a commercial for HD Radio where they state on these commercials where they are better then their competitor because it is free. Now which competitors are they talking about it certainly is not the Internet, because some companies, such as Clear Channel, are broadcasting their HD programs on the net.

Another point I have is While on the radio I can hear about the new HD radio's being used and I can hear about programs and music I can get from the Radio Stations or from Itunes that I can play in my Ipod or other MP3 player I do not hear any advertisements for Satellite radios except in the commercials of companies such as Best Buy or Circuit City. This limits the amount of exposure for an avenue that I consider a competitor. Because if I am not listening to the radio I am listening to music or a sports game. In addition, if I am listening to one station then another station is going to try to get me to listen to them. Or if I am going to listen to commercial free music on the satellite radio then traditional radio is going to roll out HD radio where it is commercial free music.

Now I did not write to complain about it but I want to embrace the merger. I want to see it come to fruition because I believe it will become a stronger entity. I say this because if it merges as it states it will then it will still be a paid subscription and it will still be responsible to it's stock holders. Which I know causes them to balance the cost of subscription versus

maximum profits. That also means that if they begin to raise prices too much then they will find themselves right where they are today. Where people are not keeping their subscriptions year to year. It will also mean that in order to be competitive they will either have to start introducing commercials into their music to maximize profits or lower their subscriptions in order to win people back.

This is just like when USSB came out with Direct TV Satellite service. Cable was so concerned that it began bad mouthing it via letter campaigns to its subscribers. However, most people I knew wanted to use it because we were having so much difficulty with out Cable subscriber. Therefore my family had the service when it first came out, we paid heavily for it and in the end we determined that it was not right for us, and we switched back to cable service, who had done a great deal to upgrade their services. Since then the satellite company also has had to restructure to remain competitive and also had to improve it's services both maintenance and customer in order to be competitive. I believe we are looking at a similar situation with this Sirius and XM merger. With the competition of both Land Based Radio and Satellite radio each will feed off each other and make each other more competitive.

I also believe that when Clear Channel increased the number of stations it own nationwide it was also a good thing. Some in the NAB believed it would be the downfall of much smaller stations. I believe it has been the opposite, I believe the smaller stations have had a better chance to get better talent that was not happy at the big conglomerate stations and moved to the smaller stations thereby increasing their listening audience. I believe that this is a similar situation.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I want to thank you for all that you do to help this country. Moreover, I look forward to hearing about your opinions when the final verdict is rendered in this matter. Thank you.

Michael Blandford